

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air any partisan political documentary days before an election is clearly an egregious action by big business to influence the outcome of an election, not unlike hiring thugs to stand guard at polling places to exert pressure on people trying to exercise their right to vote in a free and democratic society.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, as has been shown time and time again, large companies are more interested in the bottom line than in living up to their responsibilities to the public they are supposed to be serving. Substantive news about issues that matter falls away in favor of distorted spin. We, the public, need information we can work with, not large corporations forcing their opinions disguised as news.

Large media consolidation breeds arrogance and demagoguery and is bad for democracy. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.